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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Luis Carlos GARCIA-Armenta,

Defendant.

) Mag. Case No.

'08 MJ 8138

) COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF:

) Title 8, U.S.C., Section 1324 (a)(1)(A)(ii)

) Illegal Transportation of Aliens

The undersigned complainant, being duly sworn, states:

On or about February 12, 2008, within the Southern District of California, defendant Luis Carlos GARCIA-Armenta with the intent to violate the immigration laws of the United States, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that aliens, namely, Jose Octavio HERNANDEZ-Lona, Juan Roberto HERNANDEZ-Ponce, and Reveriano DE LA TORRE-Loza had come to, entered and remained in the United States in violation of law, did transport and move, said aliens within the United States in furtherance of such violation of law; in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii).

And the complainant states that this complaint is based on the attached statement of facts, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Marco A. Miranda  
Senior Patrol Agent

SWORN TO BEFORE AND SUBSCRIBED IN MY PRESENCE THIS 13th DAY OF  
FEBRUARY 2008.

PETER C. LEWIS  
United States Magistrate Judge

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2 v.

3 Luis Carlos GARCIA-Armenta

4 STATEMENT OF FACTS

5 The complainant states that this complaint is based upon statements in the investigative  
6 reports by the apprehending agents, D. Blake and J. Lira that on February 12, 2008, the  
7 defendant, Luis Carlos GARCIA-Armenta an illegal alien, was apprehended in Calexico,  
8 California, as the driver of a tan 1985 Dodge Diplomat, as he smuggled sixteen (16)  
9 undocumented aliens from Mexico, in violation of law.

10 On February 12, 2008, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Remote Video Surveillance Systems  
11 (RVSS) operator K. Sheppard was conducting surveillance near the Calexico, California East  
12 Port of Entry. Agent Sheppard notified agents that a vehicle was loading people. Agent  
13 Sheppard observed the vehicle approximately 1/2 mile south of Ash Canal on the north bank of  
14 the All American Canal.

15 Agent Sheppard informed agents that the vehicle proceeded north along the west side of  
16 the Ash Canal. Agents Blake and Lira responded to the area and observed the vehicle as it  
17 traveled eastbound toward the Port of Entry. The RVSS operator confirmed with Agent Blake  
18 that the vehicle was the same one that was previously observed. Agents Lira and Blake followed  
19 the tan vehicle northbound on Menvielle Road.

20 The vehicle was stopped on traffic on the intersection of Menvielle Road and Highway  
21 98. Both Agents Lira and Blake approached the tan Dodge Diplomat. Agent Blake approached  
22 the drivers' side, while Agent Lira approached the passengers' side. Agent Blake observed  
23 GARCIA behind the wheel of the vehicle and numerous people piled inside the vehicle. Agent  
24 Blake identified himself as a United States Border Patrol Agent and instructed GARCIA to turn  
25 off and exit the vehicle. GARCIA was placed in handcuffs.

26 As Agent Blake, was instructing the occupants to exit the vehicle, he heard a bang  
27 coming from inside the trunk of the vehicle. Using the vehicle keys, Agent Blake tried to open  
28 the trunk, but the keys didn't work. Agent Blake noticed that the rear seat of the vehicle was  
29 missing and could see individuals inside the trunk. Agent Blake instructed the individuals to exit  
the vehicle through the passenger side of the vehicle.

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1 Agent Blake questioned GARCIA and the sixteen other individuals as to their citizenship.  
2 GARCIA and the sixteen subjects admitted to being citizens and national of Mexico without any  
3 immigration documents that would allow them to be in, live, or work in the United States legally.  
4 GARCIA was placed under arrest for Alien Smuggling. All the subjects were transported to the  
5 Calexico Border Patrol Station.

6 At the station, Agent S. Guzman advised Luis Carlos GARCIA-Armenta of his Miranda  
7 rights in the Spanish language. GARCIA acknowledged understanding his rights and was willing  
8 to answer any questions without an attorney present. GARCIA told agents that he is a citizen of  
9 Mexico, born in Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico. GARCIA stated that he understood he was arrested  
10 for smuggling illegal aliens. GARCIA stated that he was the driver of the vehicle containing  
11 sixteen illegal aliens. GARCIA stated that he was fully aware that transporting illegal aliens in  
12 the United States is illegal. GARCIA stated that he was driving the vehicle in lieu of a \$2,500  
13 smuggling fee.

14 Material Witnesses, José Octavio HERNANDEZ-Lona, Juan Roberto HERNANDEZ-  
15 Ponce, and Reveriano DE LA TORRE-Loza, stated they are citizens of Mexico illegally in the  
16 United States. HERNANDEZ-Lona and HERNANDEZ-Ponce, stated they both made  
17 arrangements to pay \$2,500.00 to be smuggled into the United States. José Octavio  
18 HERNANDEZ-Lona, Juan Roberto HERNANDEZ-Ponce, and Reveriano DE LA TORRE-Loza  
19 stated they crossed the United States/Mexico International border illegally by boarding a raft and  
20 rafting across a canal into the United States. Juan Roberto HERNANDEZ-Ponce was shown a  
21 six pack photo line up and positively identified Luis Carlos GARCIA-Armenta as the individual  
22 that rafted the group across the canal. Reveriano DE LA TORRE-Loza was shown a six pack  
23 photo line up and positively identified Luis Carlos GARCIA-Armenta as the driver of the  
24 vehicle.

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The complainant states that the names of the Material Witnesses are as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PLACE OF BIRTH</u>
José Octavio HERNANDEZ-Lona	Mexico
Juan Roberto HERNANDEZ-Ponce,	Mexico
Reveriano DE LA TORRE-Loza	Mexico

Further, complainant states that José Octavio HERNANDEZ-Lona, Juan Roberto HERNANDEZ-Ponce, and Reveriano DE LA TORRE-Loza, are citizens of a country other than the United States; that said aliens have admitted that they are deportable; that their testimony is material, that it is impracticable to secure their attendance at the trial by subpoena; and they are material witnesses in relation to this criminal charge and should be held or admitted to bail pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3144.